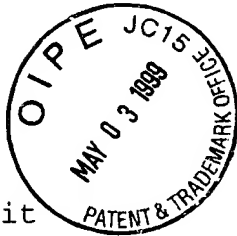


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PATENT
120194-4220A
(124784A U.S.)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: JUAN A. VILLARREAL-TREVINO
Serial No. : 09/252,875
Filed : February 18, 1999
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING
DIRECT REDUCED IRON WITH IMPROVED
REDUCING GAS UTILIZATION
Art Unit : 1724
Examiner : Not yet assigned



745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151
April 28, 1999

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being deposited with the United States
Postal Service with sufficient postage as
first-class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 28, 1999

[Signature]
Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered
Representative: A. Thomas S. Safford, Esq.

Rule 1.56 Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box: Missing Parts
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, references of possible
interest which have come to applicants' attention are listed in
the attached modified PTO Form 1449.

Copies of the listed references are enclosed. These
are in addition to those that have been previously cited in the
above-identified application. These are all in English;
consequently, no fees, translations, or comments are necessary.

Pursuant to Rule 1.97(b)(3), the documents cited herein are being submitted before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The citation of these references is not to be considered a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant prior art. The references are identified and discussed in good faith, but they are not intended to be a substitute for the Examiner's own further search and evaluation. However, it is hoped that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the existence of these references, they will be of assistance to him in identifying fields for search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

Statements appearing above with respect to the enclosed references represent the present opinions of applicants' undersigned attorney, and if the Examiner should disagree with any such opinions, it is requested that he specifically indicate those portions of the respective patents that he believes provide a basis for such a contrary view.

Should any fee be due, contrary to our understanding, then please charge (or credit) our Deposit Account No. 03-3425

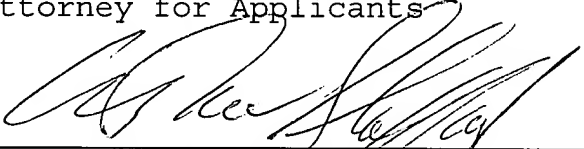
120194-4220A
(124784A U.S.)

for any insufficiency or omission (or overpayment) regarding fees
due in connection with any of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorney for Applicants

By:



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Registration No. 21,002
TEL: 212-588-0800
FAX: 212-588-0500

Enclosure: Form 1449